GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4338
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
LABORATORIES FOR QUALITY CONTROL OF PESTICIDES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of laboratories functioning at various levels for the quality control of pesticides and the number of samples tested by them alongwith the number of samples which were found to be of substandard quality during the last three years;

(b) whether majority of the samples which were found to be of substandard quality after the tests conducted in the laboratories at State Level were later on declared fit for use by the bigger laboratories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the quality producers have to bear heavy losses due to this;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to incorporate some legal provisions in the existing Pesticides Act to be used against the irresponsible laboratory men including analysis and pectors; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): There are 45 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs), functioning in 17 States and one Union Territory for quality control testing of pesticides. Besides, there are two Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs), established by the Government of India, at Chandigarh and Kanpur, to supplement the resources of States/UTs in monitoring the quality of pesticides. These also test samples, drawn by the Central Insecticide Inspectors.

Further, under the Insecticides Act, the only referral laboratory is the Central Insecticides Laboratory (C.I.L). where second testing is permissible and the same is being undertaken in respect of the samples failed in the State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) & Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs). Statement showing the number of samples analysed and found misbranded at these laboratories is placed at Annexure-I.

(b)&(c): Over the last three years, out of 4560 samples failed at the 1st stage i.e. at State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs)/ Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories (RPTLs), 2112 samples were referred to Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL) for re-testing, out of which 758 were found to be of substandard quality while 1354 samples were declared to be fit for use (Details in Annexure-I)

(d): The Government has received no specific report in this regard. However, actions against producers are taken only as per the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968.

(e)&(f): Suggestion made by some pesticide associations for taking action against insecticide inspectors for their vexatious acts is under consideration of the Government.

Annexure-I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE STATISTICS OF THE ANALYSIS OF PESTICIDE SAMPLES FOR QUALITY CONTROL IN STATE PESTICIDES TESTING LABORATORIES (SPTLs) REGIONAL PESTICIDES TESTING LABORATORIES (RPTLs) AND THE CENTRAL INSECTICIDES LABORATORY (CIL) DURING 2000-2003.

Name of the Laboratory	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (Upto Dec, 2002)

SampleAnalyzed Sub-Standard SampleAnalyzed Sub-Standard SampleAnalyzed Sub-Standard

State Pesticides Testing Laboratories

45,444 1,149 38,130 1,029 30,605 1,128

Regional Pesticides Testing Laboratories

2,139 414 1,924 443 1,783 397

Central Insecticides Laboratory

638 239 813 257 661 262